

STUPIDITY.

As a rule, anonymous communications received in this office are promptly dropped in the wastebasket and no attention is paid to them. However, we will make this a special case and comment on the note which a member of the Society sent in, written on the back of the circular letter which accompanied the postcard asking for information in regard to incomes.

He says: "This, it is apparent to me, is an excellent method by which the Federal authorities may ascertain the amount of the physician's income, thereby giving them a fine chance to collect an income tax from us, and I believe physicians are poor enough already."

In the first place, it was definitely announced on the authority of the Medical Society of the State of California, that the information sent in would be confidential.

In the second place, there is nothing on the postcard by which the identity of the one who fills it out can be determined.

In the third place, if a physician's income is such as to be included under the law of the income tax and he conceals that fact, he confesses himself to be a deliberate thief.

The editor sincerely trusts that the writer of this anonymous letter may read these words and recognize himself as either a fool, a liar, or a thief.

INVESTIGATION OF TRAINING SCHOOLS.

Within the last two or three years, a considerable amount of attention has been directed toward the investigation of hospitals and the training of nurses. In this State, the State Board of Health, through its Nurses' Bureau, has undertaken to do a certain amount of work. As a result of this activity, the following is part of some resolutions passed by the Humboldt County Medical Society, and gives food for thought:

"Your attention is called to the Curriculum and Requirements for Accredited Training Schools of Nursing recently promulgated by the Nurses' Bureau of the State Board of Health.

"Inasmuch as this Board has laid out an unreasonable program to be followed by hospital training schools in order to be accredited, and inasmuch also as Senate Bill No. 526 does not give this Board authority to make these requirements, it is deemed advisable to use every means possible to control this assumed authority and define by law a sane and reasonable course of studies for nurses, that will allow the hospitals away from the large centers to continue their training schools.

"In order to do this, and prevent further raising of standards already unreasonable, we believe the fairest way will be for the Legislature to establish the Requirements and Curriculum which training schools shall meet, instead of delegating this power to the Nurses' Bureau of the State Board of Health."

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

PRINCIPLES AND PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT WORK.*

By MORTON R. GIBBONS, M. D., San Francisco.

I am asked to speak on the principles and problems of Industrial Accident Work. This subject I know should be treated from the doctor's side. However, the doctor's side and the Commission's side are so dovetailed as to be almost indistinguishable.

It is the duty of the Industrial Accident Commission to administer a law which at once requires consideration of medical subjects, legal subjects, moral subjects and general humanitarianism.

The text of the law says: "Neither Commission, nor referee appointed thereby, shall be governed by the technical rules of evidence." I suspect that many doctors who have come in contact with the law have gathered the idea that the Commission applies this privilege to medical subjects as well as to legal subjects.

The Commission had at the outset a difficult duty to perform. There were few Commissions in this country when our law became effective. The laws in existence had less scope than has the California law. No Commission had gone far; all were pioneering. The foreign laws help little because of differences of the basic principles of our Government. Our Commission had to make all its rules of procedure and establish its own precedents.

Now a parallel condition existed in the medical experience in the United States. Very few men had ever had great responsibility to meet in the question of trauma and its results. The books, when they mention trauma at all, "mentioned" it only. They did not give responsible information.

The California Commission gathered a group of medical men to whom the task of advising it in these subjects has fallen. These men, by their studies of cases, and needs, and by their general familiarity with the work, have become most valuable. They themselves would be surprised to learn the change in their point of view in the last two and one-half years, and surprised to realize their greater facility in handling the ordinary run of cases. However, just because the medical experts are scientific conscientious men, the Commission is sometimes left in a dilemma. Medical and surgical information as you know is not complete. Some things cannot be stated positively by men who regard their reputations. This is not always true of all medical men. The Commission then sometimes finds a conscientious equivocal statement confronted by a comparatively irresponsible positive statement on a point on which no one has the knowledge to say much. This then is a problem of the Commission.

Of course, the Commission must listen to interested parties. I state frankly that some doctors are not above serving a cause which is not scien-

* Read before the San Francisco County Medical Society, August 15, 1916.